

**Butorides striatus** (Linn.). The Little Green Heron.

One seen at Ulsoor Tank in Bangalore but not collected. Not previously recorded from Mysore State.

3, ST. MARKS ROAD,  
BANGALORE, MYSORE,  
January 5, 1952.

C. BROOKE WORTH

## 19. ADDITIONAL MYSORE STATE BIRD RECORDS

**Hirundo fluvicola** (Blyth). The Cliff Swallow.

February 15, 1952. A colony at Belur, Hassan District. A small temple surrounded by water in a tank, had numerous nests of cliff swallows and house swifts. The swallows were seen several times previously, but had not been properly identified. At least thirty pairs of swallows were present. Undoubtedly resident.

**Phoenicopterus ruber** (Linn.). The Flamingo.

February 15, 1952. Twenty-one seen at Lakshmipura Tank near Arsikere, north of Belur. Not recorded from Mysore.

**Cursorius coromandelicus** (Gmelin). The Indian Courser.

April 26, 1952. Shot from a flock by Dr. Robert B. Watson and brought to me in the flesh. Skin made. Site of shooting, 11 miles SW. of Bangalore visited by me on May 15 and two birds seen.

**Sypheotides indica** (Miller). The Lesser Florican.

May 26, 1952. One seen at 101 mile-post on Bangalore-Mangalore Road, Hassan District.

**Caprimulgus monticolus** (Franklin). Franklin's Nightjar.

May 29, 1952. Voice identified at Sakleshpur from written descriptions. The sound had been heard previously at Bangalore Golf Club in March, 1952—definitely not a golfer who missed the ball, for it was at night and proceeded from the branches of a tree!

3, ST. MARKS ROAD,  
BANGALORE, MYSORE.  
October 19, 1952.

C. BROOKE WORTH

## 20. A PYTHON CONTAINING A FULL-GROWN, UNDIGESTED LUNGOOR

This snake, exactly 12 ft. in length was found, last September, asleep in a dry, shallow, overgrown and gloomy nullah which, because of its 'concealed', inconspicuous character and affording access to a river, was often used by an occasional tiger or panther when requiring a drink, and in which it almost invariably lay up afterwards. The adjacent river-belt of jungle—mostly dense bamboo—on both banks usually harboured families of lungoors and common brown monkeys, both of which used to give the well-known alarm cries at the appearance

of any of the carnivora. At the time in question, they had been not only silent for many days but the lungoors seemed to have completely abandoned that locality. For this reason I visited the nullah to look for pugs. Soon after entering its mouth and just as my head came level with the higher floor further up, I saw, about a dozen yards away and close beside one of its low banks, what I at first thought was a very dark panther asleep in the dappled shade of a clump of bamboos; but, a moment later, recognized it as a python—though I could not see any part of it on either side of the prominent 'hump' in its body. On closer approach I realized that those invisible lengths were thrust under the carpet of fallen dead leaves that strewed the floor of the nullah, and more thickly against that part of its bank. How should one kill a python without shooting its head off? By pinning its head to the ground with a knife-thrust, or by bashing it with a club? I found and laid handy a thick, dead branch and then proceeded cautiously first to uncover what I assumed to be the end of its tail, only to discover that it was the head. The snake still appeared to be asleep. I decided to take it back alive and observe the progress of digestion of the contained animal—presumed to be a young pig or deer—and therefore returned to camp for assistance. On seeing the snake, however, the men assured me that it would have to be killed before its removal could be attempted; this they proceeded to do by first so trimming a couple of bamboos that there remained a hook-like twig at the end of each—to haul the snake away from the foot of the bank and to control it—and one bamboo sharpened to a point for thrusting at the head and pinning it down. The snake was first hooked away from the bank to allow me to take photos of it (all unsatisfactory owing to the gloom, and the colour and marking of the snake blending with the leaves and bushes). With the first thrust at its head—a bad shot—the snake gradually became very animated and then aggressive, striking with wide-open jaws at the wielded bamboos or the nearest person, but remained anchored to the ground by the weight of the lump in its mid-body. Eventually, though with head undamaged, its activities were reduced to gentle writhings after the lower jaw was damaged by thrusting the sharp bamboo into the throat and jabbing it about there. Then pliant lengths of a creeper were tightly tied behind the head and around the tapering part of the tail behind the vent, and the snake was thus hauled by tail (not head!) by two men with difficulty—such was its weight—to the village for skinning. But, on being released from its bonds that snake came to life, rapidly disgorged a seemingly intact and full-grown lungoor in the attitude of simian slumber—with only a 'bubble' of gut protruding from the navel as evidence of any pressure exerted upon it—and, thus relieved, became so dangerously active that someone cut off its head. The previously distended skin rapidly contracted to normal proportions—even as the ape was being ejected, its fur only moist and not smeared with slimy saliva. After skinning, the snake was slit open from throat to vent. The gullet, or oesophagus, seemed to be simply and entirely a long, membranous, elastic 'gutter' to within about 18 in. of the vent; this latter portion containing a few coils of entrails as narrow as the 'small' intestine of any small animal, and the whole widely arched over by the ribs attached to the vertebrae like a low, vaulted roof. Viewed thus, there appeared to be no other viscera or

organs. Between vent and tip of tail was a deep gash in the skin, about an inch long, as though inflicted by the fang of a lungoor. If the presence of this python in that nullah was responsible for the absence of monkeys there for nearly a week, how long had the ape been inside it?

'GLENCAIRN',  
HOBART ROAD,  
OOTACAMUND,  
December 14, 1952.

K. BOSWELL,  
Capt. I.A.M.C. (Retd.).

21. SOME MORE NOTES ON *UROPELTIS MACROLEPIS*  
(PETERS) WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
SPECIMENS FROM MAHABLESHWAR  
(WESTERN GHATS, BOMBAY)

I recently (*J.B.N.H.S.*, 50: 950) recorded a specimen of the Rough-tailed Earth Snake—*Uropeltis macrolepis* (Peters)—from Mahableshtar which appeared to differ from the others in our collection in the presence of an unbroken brownish-yellow stripe along each flank throughout the length of the body, as compared to a line of spots in the others.

Both varieties have a broad yellow or orange stripe on each side of the tail, sometimes meeting on the under surface almost at the tip of the tail. The anal scale is also yellow in some and concolorous with the ventrals in others, but an examination of the material available indicates that neither of these two colour differences is a sexual characteristic.

Mr. D. J. Panday recently obtained two more specimens at Mahableshtar and these (both males) also have an unbroken stripe along the side.

Their lepidosis also corresponds with that of the previous specimen including the sub-caudal count of 13 scales instead of 7-10 (Malcolm Smith's Fauna, Vol. III: 79) or 7-12 (Wall's Handlist of the Snakes of the Indian Empire, *J.B.N.H.S.*, Vol. xxix: 356 in those from other places.

Dr. Malcolm Smith's suggestion that the striped variety with 13 sub-caudals may be restricted to Mahableshtar appears to be substantiated.

BOMBAY,  
December 23, 1952.

V. K. CHARI

22. THE TADPOLE OF *RANA LEITHII* BOULENGER

(With a plate)

On 17th September 1950, Mr. Humayun Abdulali brought in two tadpoles and a frog from Suriamal, 2,500 ft. North Thana, Bombay.

The frog was picked up on a ghat road and the tadpoles obtained on almost vertical rocks alongside, over which water was flowing into the road-side gutter.